

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Page 3

The replacement paragraph at page 3, lines 12 through 25 are as follows:

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Turning now to the drawings in greater detail, Figure 1 shows the preferred embodiment of a web slitting and merging apparatus 10 of the present invention operating on a paperweb 12 of the pinless variety (pinless meaning no perforations in the marginal edges). While the term paperweb 12 is used herein, it will be appreciated that this invention is not limited to paper but may operate on foil, fabric, plastic sheeting, or any other such flexible continuous roll or sheet of material. The paperweb 12 travels from the right of Figure 1 to the left, moving from an upstream utilization device 13 such as a laser printer to the apparatus 10 of the present invention. The paperweb 12 enters the apparatus 10 having printed material on one or both of its faces, such as in the areas indicated at "A₁", "A₂", "A₃" and "A₄" etc. In a common application, the sections "A₁", "A₂", "A₃" and "A₄" etc. comprise the pages of a book or job when the paperweb 12 is ultimately slit and cut, all in accordance with conventional practice for paperwebs of the variety having tractor drive holes in their marginal edges.

Page 8

The replacement paragraph at page 8, lines 9 through 25 are as follows:

a 2

Three-up processing is similar to two-up processing described in Figures 1 and 2 with several additional components. As before, like components of this second alternative embodiment are numbered 200 greater than like components of the preferred embodiment and 100 greater than the alternative embodiment. The web is moving upstream from a utilization device 213 and is slit by two rotary upper blades 218 and their corresponding offset scissor blades (not shown) into a first web ribbon 224, a second web ribbon 228, and a third web ribbon 264. The first web ribbon 224 follows the path described above for the first alternative embodiment of Figure 2. The second web ribbon 228 follows a path described above for either of the embodiments of Figures 1 or 2, with an additional detour along a path between a midway upper take-

a 2
up roller 266 and a midway lower take-up roller 268. In this second alternative embodiment, the lower take-up roller 260 is fixed and the upper take-up roller 234 is moveable, so that the length of travel for the first web ribbon 224 is determined by the position of the upper takeup roller 234. The midway lower take-up roller 268 is fixed as movement thereof will not appreciably change the length of travel for the second web ribbon 228. That length is changeable by the vertical adjustment of the midway upper take-up roller 266.